Permits and Specific Requirements[8]				
	Dog Training Area Permit	**Wildlife Hobby Permit**	**Game Bird Hunting Preserve Permit** [6]	**Field Trial Permit**
Permit price	$20	$10	$100	$20
Record keeping required	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Birds may be released	Yes	Yes[2]	Yes	Yes
Bird possession limit	0	50 birds	0	0
Birds must be recaptured	No	Yes	No	No
May shoot released birds	Yes[4]	No	Yes	Yes
Other restrictions	Yes[7]	Yes[1 and 7]	Yes[3 and 7]	Yes[5]
Must post signage	Yes	No	Yes	No
Acreage requirements	40 acres or less	No	160 to 640 acres	No

[1]Birds may not be shot, sold or given away.

[2]Banded birds may be temporarily released and recaptured when training dogs.

[3]Permits will be limited in areas within 5 miles of any location where there is an ongoing department game bird release program, in any location where those activities are considered by the department as likely to further jeopardize any species currently designated by Missouri or federal regulations as threatened or endangered.

[4]The shooters are limited to the permit holder and 2 training assistants, whose names must be written on the permit.

[5]Permit request must be made not less than 10 days prior to the trial and permit shall cover no more than 10 consecutive days.

[6]Any person taking or hunting game birds on a licensed game bird hunting preserve shall have in his/her possession a valid small game hunting permit or licensed game bird hunting preserve permit, except that persons 15 years of age or younger, when accompanied by a properly licensed adult hunter, and residents 65 years of age and older, may hunt without permit.

[7]Refer to 3CSR10-9.220 for confinement standards if you plan to hold birds for more than 24 hours.

[8]To see the regulations in their entirety, go to www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp or pick up a copy of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* wherever permits are sold.

Definitions

Record Keeping: All permits require record keeping and documentation. Refer to the *Wildlife Code* for additional information.

Recapture: Any device used to recapture birds in accordance with this provision must be labeled with the user's full name, address and wildlife hobby permit number and be attended daily. Includes but not limited to callback pens and Johnny Houses.

Signage: Dog-training area and game bird hunting preserve permits require the boundary of the designated area to be posted with signs. Signs can be found at www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp in Chapter 9.

For additional information on the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* and necessary permits and regulations, contact your local Missouri Department of Conservation office or conservation agent.

Northwest Region
701 N.E. College Drive
St. Joseph 64507
(816) 271-3100

Ozark Region
551 Joe Jones Blvd.
West Plains 65775
(417) 256-7161

Kansas City Region
3424 N.W. Duncan Road
Blue Springs 64015
(816) 655-6250

Northeast Region
3500 S. Baltimore
Kirksville 63501
(660) 785-2420

Southwest Region
2630 N. Mayfair
Springfield 65803
(417) 895-6880

Southeast Region
2302 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau 63701
(573) 290-5730

Central Region
1907 Hillcrest Drive
Columbia 65201
(573) 884-6861

St. Louis Region
2360 Highway D
St. Charles 63304
(636) 441-4554

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Permits and Requirements for Captive Game Birds

Missouri Department of Conservation

Stocking Captive-reared Quail—The Silver Bullet?

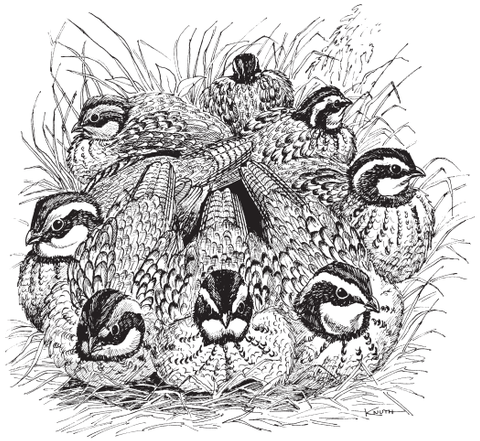
At first glance, stocking seems to be an easy way to restore quail populations. Like many quick fixes, stocking or releasing pen-raised quail to restore a population doesn't bring lasting results and may in fact negatively impact wild populations and habitat restoration efforts.

Just the Facts

Numerous studies have revealed that only a very small percentage of captive-reared quail survive more than a few weeks after being released into the wild. Because most captive birds succumb to predation, promoters of releasing pen-raised quail specify that predators must be removed. The fact is, most captive-reared quail do not have the skills or instincts needed to survive. In economic terms, the pen-raised quail that do survive are very expensive due to the cost of the birds, the release system, feed, medication and predator removal. This money could be better spent on habitat restoration that will benefit numerous species.

Lesson Learned

In the past, state wildlife agencies tried stocking quail. By the early 1990s every state wildlife agency had stopped the practice because it was ineffective in restoring quail populations and did not address the real problem—loss of habitat! New systems for releasing captive-reared quail have been promoted and the results are the same as those 30 years ago—they are expensive and ineffective. Although captive quail and heavily marketed quail-release systems are still popular, there is no quick and easy way to increase quail numbers without habitat management.



Concerns about Releasing Captive-reared Quail

There has been much debate regarding the impact captive-reared quail have on wild birds. Research in the southeastern United States has shown that although a small number of captive-reared quail survived to the spring, their subsequent nesting and brood-rearing success was very low. Research also has documented captive-reared quail abandoning the nest shortly after only a few eggs hatched, leaving the rest of the eggs in the nest.

Released captive quail also may spread diseases to wild quail. Transmission of bacteria, viruses, and parasites from captive-reared to wild birds is certainly a possibility, although few such cases have been documented. Regardless, biologists emphasize that, if captive quail are to be released, strict health protocols must be followed to minimize the potential for disease transmission.

Also of concern is increased predation. Quail are relatively low on the food chain and the list of quail predators is very long. Because most released quail are killed by predators, such releases may serve to increase predator numbers, thereby negatively impacting wild quail and other wildlife.

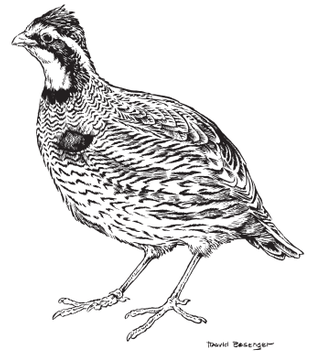
Habitat Restoration Works!

Research has shown that wild quail populations can increase and expand in areas with good habitat. In recent years, many Missouri landowners have observed an increase in quail abundance as a result of habitat improvements. Habitat work for quail also benefits rabbits, turkeys, deer and songbirds.

If the habitat is too poor to support wild quail, stocked birds can't survive there either.

Today, creating suitable habitat is the key to restoring a huntable population of bobwhites. And landowners will likely feel greater satisfaction if their habitat work benefits all wildlife.

To learn more about quail habitat management and available cost-share programs, contact your regional Missouri Department of Conservation office.



Short-term Use of Captive-reared Quail

Release of captive quail for short-term use such as dog training, field trials or hunting is legitimate and permissible with the proper permits. Regulations in place minimize the impacts such releases could have on all wildlife. The *Wildlife Code of Missouri* specifies which permits must be obtained and the standards that must be followed to raise and/or release quail for short-term use. The four different permit options for releasing captive quail are summarized below.

- **Wildlife Hobby Permit**
  To possess certain forms of wildlife for personal use but not for sale.
- **Dog Training Area Permit**
  To operate a bird dog training area.
- **Game Bird Hunting Preserve Permit**
  To operate a licensed shooting area
- **Field Trial Permit**
  To conduct field trials, and sets requirements for conducting these trials.

Landowners and hunters interested in obtaining a permit to raise or release quail for dog training or hunting should contact their local conservation agent for additional information.